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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Polish-Administered Area)

DATE DISTR. 17 Feb. 1950

SUBJECT Russian Installations in Liegnitz and Vicinity

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. There is a Soviet headquarters in Liegnitz (Lignica), apparently located in the ducal palace, which is heavily guarded by sentries with tommy-guns. At the beginning of January most of the local help (janitors, cleaning women) was dismissed and replaced by Russian soldiers. The numerous Russian dependents in the city are carefully insulated from contact with the local population, and attend only Russian motion-picture houses and a Russian theatre. The number of children in the Russian schools is given as several hundred.
2. Most of the troops in the city of Liegnitz wear tank insignia. About one third of the uniformed personnel are seen in Polish uniform, but are alleged to be in fact Russians. In October 1949 there was a large-scale replacement of troops after repeated bad behavior by soldiers who had been stationed there up to four years. The officers and enlisted men now in the city appear, from the medals they wear, to be combat veterans; discipline is reported to be good.
3. On the outskirts of Liegnitz to the north a large vehicle park was observed containing some hundreds of vehicles. Most of these were covered with straw, so that it could not be determined whether they were armored or not. The vehicles which were not so camouflaged included Russian medium tanks and eleven German Tiger tanks. The entire park was under heavy guard, with sentries stationed at intervals of about a hundred yards; although only a few small barbed-wire barriers were seen. The whole area was commanded by a wooden tower on each side of the road, equipped with a searchlight.
4. Beyond the tank park, northwest of Liegnitz, were some small artillery units. The guns which were visible resembled British 25-pounders, but about two thirds of all the guns were concealed with straw coverings. The installation had a motor pool enclosed by wire, which contained jeeps and German sedans. Buildings comprised three barns, five other farm buildings, and eight long wooden structures which were assumed to be barracks.
5. Between Liegnitz and Jauer (Jaworów) there is a large Soviet airfield, with fighters (believed to be jets) and bombers. The ground installations are described as fairly extensive, including nine large hangars, two administration buildings, and two motor pools. In addition to the Soviet personnel.

Soviet Forces, L166V172 17 Feb 50

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officers and men in Polish uniform were seen, as well as Polish police. Inhabitants of Liegnitz reported that a number of German technicians (possibly 100 - 300) are employed at the airfield.

6. Another Soviet headquarters unit is located in Schweidnitz (Świdnica, III8). Directly south of Schweidnitz is a tank installation, about half as large as that at Liegnitz, and similarly camouflaged with straw. The city appears to be almost entirely taken over by Russian military personnel, with no dependents to be seen, and only a few officers in Polish uniform.
7. It is difficult to travel westward from Liegnitz because of the strict security controls maintained by the Russians to a distance of about forty kilometers from the Neisse River. It is reported that there are checkpoints every two kilometers or so on the main roads, and that all secondary roads are also guarded. Poles living in the area are required to have special permits in order to move about.
8. Railway services in Silesia seem to be in good operating order, although most passenger trains are reserved for Soviet troops.

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